

CONNECTION



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
2019 APR -2 PM 1:25

SENSITIVE

April 2, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP by MAM*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: *KDR* Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly *BH*
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2018 Year-End Report for the
Administrative Fine Program

Attached is a list of political committees and their treasurers who failed to file the 2018 Year-End Report in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The Year-End Report was due on January 31, 2019.

The committees listed in the attached RTB Circulation Report either failed to file the report, filed the report no more than thirty (30) days after the due date (considered a late filed report), or filed the report more than thirty (30) days after the due date (considered a non-filed report). In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 C.F.R. 111.43, these committees should be assessed the civil money penalties highlighted on the attached circulation report.

In order to determine the level of activity for unauthorized quarterly filers that filed a Year-End Report and were required to but failed to file the 30 Day Post-General Report, the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) used the following procedures and criteria:

- Every Year-End Report (YE) submitted by an unauthorized quarterly filer that covered the period from October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 (92 days) was reviewed for activity which would have required the filing of a 30 Day Post-General Report (30G). If our research indicated that a 30G was required, we utilized a three-step method to arrive at the activity on which to base the YE fine amount. First, we took the sum of all itemized receipts and disbursements that should have been disclosed on a YE that covered the period from November 27, 2018 through December 31, 2018 (35 days). Second, if the committee had any unitemized activity, a per diem level of this activity was calculated by multiplying the total amount of unitemized activity on the report by 38.04% (35 days (correct YE Filing Period)/92 days (submitted YE Filing Period)). Third, we took the sum of the amounts calculated in steps one and two to arrive at the level of activity assigned to the YE.

Recommendation

1. Find reason to believe that the political committees and their treasurers, in their official capacity, listed on the RTB Circulation Report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalties would be the amounts indicated on the RTB Circulation Report.
2. Send the appropriate letters.

4/2/2019 11:29 AM

Federal Election Commission
Reason to Believe Circulation Report
2018 YEAR-END Not Election Sensitive 01/31/2019 H_S_P_UNAUTH

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
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3664	C00324780	AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE AAEM PAC		WILLIAM T. DURKIN, JR.	\$120,046	0	2/6/2019	6	\$10,921	\$182
3685	C00858757	AMERICANS SUPPORTING VETERANS PAC		MARK SLY	\$695,785	0	3/29/2019	57 (Not Filed*)	\$119,609	\$6,541
3687	C00216184	ANESTHESIA SERVICE MEDICAL GROUP ADVOCACY FUND		C. APRIL BOLING	\$117,891	0	2/11/2019	11	\$3,423	\$101

3677	C00516922	COMMITTEE TO ELECT RON VARASTEH	RON VARASTEH	MASHA MACURDA	\$504,325	0		Not Filed	\$56,036 (est)	\$3,825
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4/2/2019 11:29 AM

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
3687	C00670892	FRIENDS OF DAVID WERTIME	DAVID WERTIME	RICHARD WERTIME	\$250,085	0	2/25/2019	25	\$2,488	\$185

3690	C00656744	GEORGE FRANKLIN FOR CONGRESS	GEORGE FRANKLIN	HEATHER RICKETTS	\$1,687,482	0		Not Filed	\$337,496 (est)	\$11,627
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3707	C00661181	SAM DEEN FOR CONGRESS	SAM ALAN DEEN,	TERI LYNN PRUITT	\$159,926	0		Not Filed	\$31,985 (est)	\$1,230
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4/2/2019 11:29 AM

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTS Penalty
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3718	C00433672	TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION PAC		PAUL J. MALIR	\$140,198	0	2/22/2019	22	\$12,591	\$278
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* The committee filed their report more than thirty (30) days after the due date; therefore, the report is considered not filed.

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2018)
Year-End Report for the Administrative)
Fine Program:)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF) AF# 3664
EMERGENCY MEDICINE POLITICAL)
ACTION COMMITTEE AAEM PAC, and)
DR. WILLIAM T DURKIN, JR as)
treasurer;)
AMERICANS SUPPORTING VETERANS) AF# 3665
PAC, and SLY, MARK as treasurer;)

ANESTHESIA SERVICE MEDICAL) AF# 3667
GROUP ADVOCACY FUND, and C)
APRIL BOLING as treasurer;)

Federal Election Commission
Certification for Administrative Fines
April 5, 2019

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COMMITTEE TO ELECT RON) AF# 3677
VARASTEH, and MACURDA, MASHA as)
treasurer;)

FRIENDS OF DAVID WERTIME, and) AF# 3687
WERTIME, RICHARD as treasurer;)

GEORGE FRANKLIN FOR CONGRESS,) AF# 3690
and RICKETTS, HEATHER as treasurer;)

Federal Election Commission
Certification for Administrative Fines
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Page 3

SAM DEEN FOR CONGRESS, and
PRUITT, TERI LYNN as treasurer;

) AF# 3707
)

TRANSSYSTEMS CORPORATION PAC,) AF# 3718
and PAUL J MALIR as treasurer;)

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on April 05, 2019 the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2018 Year-End Report for the Administrative Fine Program as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated April 02, 2019, on the following committees:

AF#3664 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE AAEM PAC, and DR. WILLIAM T DURKIN, JR in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3665 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that AMERICANS SUPPORTING VETERANS PAC, and SLY, MARK in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3667 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that ANESTHESIA SERVICE MEDICAL GROUP ADVOCACY FUND, and C APRIL BOLING in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3677 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that COMMITTEE TO ELECT RON VARASTEY, and MACURDA, MASHA in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate

letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3687 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that FRIENDS OF DAVID WERTIME, and WERTIME, RICHARD in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3690 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that GEORGE FRANKLIN FOR CONGRESS, and RICKETTS, HEATHER in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

[illegible][illegible]

AF#3707 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that SAM DEEN FOR CONGRESS, and PRUITT, TERI LYNN in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

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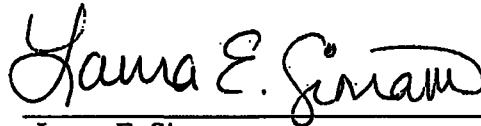
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AF#3718 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION PAC, and PAUL J MALIR in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

4/5/19

Date



Laura E. Sinram

Deputy Secretary of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

April 8, 2019

Masha Macurda, in official capacity as Treasurer
Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh
14252 Culver Dr., A820
Irvine, CA 92604

C00516922
AF#: 3677

Dear Ms. Macurda:

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a Year-End Report of Receipts and Disbursements every calendar year. This report, covering the period October 18, 2018 through December 31, 2018, shall be filed no later than January 31, 2019. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Because records at the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") indicate that you did not file this report within thirty (30) days of the due date, the report is considered not filed for the purpose of calculating the civil money penalty. You should file this report if you have not already done so.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4). On April 5, 2019, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file timely this report on or before January 31, 2019. Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$3,925. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 1. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See <https://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml> 11 CFR § 111.34. Your payment of \$3,925 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by May 15, 2019, and is based on these factors:

Sensitivity of Report: Not Election Sensitive
Level of Activity: \$56,036
Number of Days Late: Not Filed
Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 *et seq.* The FEC may take any and all appropriate

action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

4. Partial Payments

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including making a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at <https://www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1158) or (202) 694-1158.

On behalf of the Commission,

Ellen L. Weintraub

Ellen L. Weintraub
Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE REMITTANCE & PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$3,925 for the 2018 Year-End Report.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form.

This penalty may also be paid by check or money order, made payable to the Federal Election Commission. It should be sent by mail to:

Federal Election Commission
P.O. Box 979058
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If you choose to send your payment by courier or overnight delivery, please send to:

U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox
FEC #979058
1005 Convention Plaza
Attn: Government Lockbox, SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK

Personal checks will be converted into electronic funds transfers (EFTS). Your account will be electronically debited for the amount on your check, usually within 24 hours, and the debit will appear on your regular statement. We will destroy your original check and keep a copy of it. In case the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in lieu of the original check. Should the EFT not be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer twice.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT

FOR: Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh

FEC ID#: C00516922

AF#: 3677

PAYMENT DUE DATE: May 15, 2019

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$3,925

April 30, 2019

FEC's Office of Administrative Review
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

RECEIVED
FEDERAL MAIL CENTER
2019 MAY -6 PM 4: 56

Re: Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh (C00516922) AF#: 3677

To whom it may concern,

I am challenging the RTB finding and calculated civil money penalty for the following reasons:

1. This committee dropped out of the 2018 race for California's 45th House race on February 2018 and ceased any further campaigning.
2. This committee raised less than \$5,000 for the entire 2017/2018 election period.
3. This committee made its best efforts to file in a timely manner and was prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond our control. (I will elaborate on the 3rd reason, in the following three paragraphs.) Please inform me, if any documentation is required in order to support this committee's reasons.

I've been entering receipts and disbursements into the FECfile application, on my work computer, at least once a week. Soon after the Thanksgiving 2018 holiday had passed, I could no longer access the FECfile application. I desperately tried to regain access to my computer where everything resided on and were not successful. In fact, my computer began crashing even sometimes when I was accessing other applications. By mid-January 2019, I sought Mr. Ron Varasteh's expertise in restoring my computer.

it became extremely difficult to get him to look at anything else but the welfare of his father.

By the first week of April 2019, my computer was fixed and I was able to restore the FECfile data all the way back up until mid-October of 2018. I then re-entered and verified everything before finally submitting the "30 day Post-General", the "January 31 Year End", and the "April 15 Quarterly" all on April 14th of this year.

We believe the FECfile program had failed causing corruption in my computer's hard drive, which required me to purchase a new hard drive and then backup my old hard drive and restore to my new hard drive. I've been told that other factors might have also contributed to my computer's failure; such as getting infected by a virus and/or it's overheating because of obstructed air circulation. I have made sure I've addressed all those other possible causes.

Thank you kindly for your consideration and understanding,



Masha Macurda, Treasurer
Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 18, 2019

**REVIEWING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ("OAR")**

AF# 3677 – Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and Masha Macurda, in her official capacity as Treasurer (C00516922)

Summary of Recommendation

Make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess no civil money penalty.

Reason-to-Believe Background

The 2018 Year-End Report was due on January 31, 2019. The respondents filed the report on April 14, 2019, 73 days late. The report is not election sensitive and was not filed within 30 days of the due date; therefore, the report is considered not filed. 11 C.F.R. §§ 111.43(d)(1) and (e)(1).

On April 5, 2019, the Commission found reason to believe ("RTB") that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2018 Year-End Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$3,925 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. A letter was mailed to the respondents' address of record from the Reports Analysis Division ("RAD") on April 8, 2019 to notify them of the Commission's RTB finding and civil money penalty.

Legal Requirements

The Federal Election Campaign Act ("Act") states that the treasurer of a principal campaign committee shall file a report for the quarter ending December 31 no later than January 31 of the following calendar year. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(a)(1)(i). Reports electronically filed must be received and validated at or before 11:59 pm Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on the filing deadline to be timely filed. 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.19(c) and 104.5(e). The treasurer shall be personally responsible for the timely filing of reports. 11 C.F.R. § 104.14(d).

Summary of Respondents' Challenge

On May 6, 2019, the Commission received the written response ("challenge") from the Treasurer. The challenge explains that the Candidate dropped out of the race in February 2018 and ceased campaigning. The campaign raised less than \$5,000 in the 2017-2018 election cycle.

The Treasurer also states the Committee made best efforts to file on time but were prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances beyond their control. The Treasurer explains that she had been entering receipts and disbursements into FECFile weekly leading up to the end of November 2018. She then began having issues opening FECFile, followed by issues opening other programs on her computer. The Treasurer states:

We believe the FECfile program had failed causing corruption in my computer's hard drive, which required me to purchase a new hard drive and then backup my old hard drive and restore to my new hard drive. I've been told that other factors might have also contributed to my computer's failure; such as getting infected by a virus and/or it overheating because of obstructed air circulation.

In mid-January 2019, the Treasurer requested help from the Candidate in restoring her computer. it became extremely difficult to get him to look at anything else but the welfare of his father." The Treasurer's computer was fixed by the first week of April 2019. She then restored all of the data in FECFile through mid-October 2018. The Committee filed the 2018 Post-General, 2018 Year-End, and 2019 April Quarterly Reports on April 14, 2019.

Analysis

The Reviewing Officer recognizes the computer problems and unavailability of the Candidate may have made it more difficult to timely file the 2018 Year-End Report. However, Committee computer problems and unavailability of committee staff are specifically included at 11 C.F.R. § 111.35(d) as examples of a circumstance that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond the respondents' control. Therefore, the Reviewing Officer recommends that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a).

At the time of the RTB finding, the Commission used an estimated level of activity (\$56,036) to calculate the penalty because the 2018 Year-End Report had not yet been filed. 11 C.F.R. § 111.43(d)(2)(i). The 2018 Year-End Report filed April 14, 2019 discloses \$0 in total receipts and \$0 in total disbursements during the reporting period. Therefore, the actual level of activity for the 2018 Year-End reporting period is \$0. Using the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43(a), no civil money penalty should be assessed for a level of activity of \$0.

The Reviewing Officer recommends that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess no civil money penalty.

OAR Recommendations

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 3677 involving Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and Masha Macurda, in her official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination;
2. Make a final determination in AF# 3677 that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and Masha Macurda, in her official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess no civil money penalty (reduced from the RTB civil money penalty of \$3,925); and
3. Send the appropriate letter.

Attachments

Attachment 1 –

Attachment 2 – Declaration from RAD

Attachment 3 – Declaration from OAR

DECLARATION OF KRISTIN D. ROSER

1. I am the Chief of the Compliance Branch for the Reports Analysis Division of the Federal Election Commission ("Commission"). In my capacity as Chief of the Compliance Branch, I oversee the initial processing of the Administrative Fine Program. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge and, if called upon as a witness, could and would testify competently to the following matters.
2. It is the practice of the Reports Analysis Division to document all calls to or from committees regarding a letter they receive or any questions relating to the FECFile software or administrative fine regulations, including due dates of reports and filing requirements.
3. I hereby certify that documents identified herein are true and accurate copies of the following sent by the Commission to Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh:
 - A) Non-Filer Letter, dated February 19, 2019, referencing the 2018 Year-End Report (sent via electronic mail to: ron.irvine.92614@gmail.com and mmacurda@yahoo.com);
 - B) Reason-to-Believe Letter, dated April 8, 2019, referencing the 2018 Year-End Report (sent via overnight mail to the address of record).
4. I hereby certify that I have searched the Commission's public records and find that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh filed a 2018 Year-End Report with the Commission on April 14, 2019.
5. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that all relevant telecoms for the matter have been provided. This declaration was executed at Washington, D.C. on the 10th day of June, 2019.

Ben Hall for KDR

Kristin D. Roser
Chief, Compliance Branch
Reports Analysis Division
Federal Election Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-7

February 19, 2019

MACURDA, MASHA, TREASURER
COMMITTEE TO ELECT RON VARASTEH
14252 CULVER DR A820
IRVINE, CA 92604

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00516922

REFERENCE: YEAR-END REPORT (10/18/2018 - 12/31/2018)

Dear Treasurer:

It has come to the attention of the Federal Election Commission that you may have failed to file the above referenced report of receipts and disbursements or failed to file a report covering the entire reporting period as required by the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended. 52 U.S.C. §30104(a)

It is important that you file this report immediately. The report must be filed with the Federal Election Commission, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Please note that electronic filers must submit their reports electronically, as per 11 CFR §104.18. A copy of the report must also be filed with the Secretary of State or equivalent State officer unless the State is exempt from the federal requirement to receive and maintain paper copies. You can verify the Commission's receipt of any documents submitted by your committee on the FEC website at www.fec.gov.

The failure to timely file a complete report may result in civil money penalties, an audit or legal enforcement action. The civil money penalty calculation for late reports does not include a grace period and begins on the day following the due date for the report. Due to heightened security screening measures, delivery of mail by the US Postal Service may be delayed. The Commission recommends that you submit your report via overnight delivery or courier service.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Christopher Ritchie in the Reports Analysis Division on our toll-free number (800)424-9530. The analyst's direct number is (202)694-1146.

DECLARATION OF RHIANNON MAGRUDER

- 1) I am the Reviewing Officer in the Office of Administrative Review for the Federal Election Commission ("Commission"). In my capacity as Reviewing Officer, I conduct research with respect to all challenges submitted in accordance with the Administrative Fine program.
- 2) A principal campaign committee shall file a quarterly report covering the final quarter of the calendar year no later than January 31 of the following calendar year. Reports filed electronically must be received and validated at or before 11:59 pm, Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on January 31, 2019 for the 2018 Year-End Report to be timely filed.
- 3) I hereby certify that I have searched the Commission's public records and that the documents identified herein are the true and accurate copies of:
 - a) Cover Page, Summary Page, and Detailed Summary Pages of the 2018 Year-End Report filed by Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and Masha Macurda, in her official capacity as Treasurer. The report covers November 27, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and was received on April 14, 2019.
- 4) Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed at Washington, D.C. on the 18th day of June, 2019.

Rhiannon Magruder

Rhiannon Magruder
Reviewing Officer
Office of Administrative Review
Federal Election Commission

**FEC
FORM 3****REPORT OF RECEIPTS
AND DISBURSEMENTS**

For An Authorized Committee

Office Use Only

1. NAME OF COMMITTEE (in full) TYPE OR PRINT ▼ Example: If typing, type over the lines. 12FE4M5

COMMITTEE TO ELECT RON VARASTEH

ADDRESS (number and street)

14252 CULVER DR A820

▼
Check if different
than previously
reported. (ACC)

IRVINE

CA

92604

CITY ▲

STATE ▲

ZIP CODE ▲

2. FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ▼

C C00516922

3. IS THIS
REPORTx NEW
(N) ORAMENDED
(A)

STATE ▼ DISTRICT

CA

45

4. TYPE OF REPORT (Choose One)

(a) Quarterly Reports:

April 15 Quarterly Report (Q1)

July 15 Quarterly Report (Q2)

October 15 Quarterly Report (Q3)

x January 31 Year-End Report (YE)

Termination Report (TER)

(b) 12-Day PRE-Election Report for the:

Primary (12P)

General (12G)

Runoff (12R)

Convention (12C)

Special (12S)

Election on M M / D D / Y Y Y Y

in the
State of

(c) 30-Day POST-Election Report for the:

General (30G)

Runoff (30R)

Special (30S)

Election on M M / D D / Y Y Y Y

in the
State of

5. Covering Period

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y
11 27 / 2018

through

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y
12 31 / 2018

I certify that I have examined this Report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.

Macurda, Masha, .

Type or Print Name of Treasurer

Macurda, Masha, .

Signature of Treasurer

[Electronically Filed]

Date

M M / D D / Y Y Y Y
04 14 / 2019

NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Report to the penalties of 52 U.S.C. §30109.

Office
Use
Only**FEC FORM 3**
(Revised 05/2016)

SUMMARY PAGE

of Receipts and Disbursements

FEC Form 3 (Revised 05/2016)

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Write or Type Committee Name

COMMITTEE TO ELECT RON VARASTEY

Report Covering the Period: From: ^{M M / D D / Y Y Y Y}
11 27 2018

To: ^M12^M / ^D31^D / ^Y2018^Y

	COLUMN A This Period	COLUMN B Election Cycle-to-Date
6. Net Contributions (other than loans)		
(a) Total Contributions (other than loans) (from Line 11(e))	0.00	3135.60
(b) Total Contribution Refunds (from Line 20(d))	0.00	1.00
(c) Net Contributions (other than loans) (subtract Line 6(b) from Line 6(a))	0.00	3134.60
7. Net Operating Expenditures		
(a) Total Operating Expenditures (from Line 17)	0.00	24864.10
(b) Total Offsets to Operating Expenditures (from Line 14)	0.00	0.00
(c) Net Operating Expenditures (subtract Line 7(b) from Line 7(a))	0.00	24864.10
8. Cash on Hand at Close of Reporting Period (from Line 27)	3597.53	
9. Debts and Obligations Owed TO the Committee (itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D)	0.00	
10. Debts and Obligations Owed BY the Committee (itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D)	100000.00	

For further information contact:

**Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463**

Toll Free 800-424-9530
Local 202-694-1100

DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE of Receipts

FEC Form 3 (Revised 05/2016)

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Write or Type Committee Name

COMMITTEE TO ELECT RON VARASTEHReport Covering the Period: From: M M / D D / Y Y Y Y
11 27 2018To: M M / D D / Y Y Y Y
12 31 2018

I. RECEIPTS	COLUMN A Total This Period	COLUMN B Election Cycle-to-Date
11. CONTRIBUTIONS (other than loans) FROM:		
(a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees		
(i) Itemized (use Schedule A)	0.00	597.58
(ii) Unitemized	0.00	2538.02
(iii) TOTAL of contributions from Individuals	0.00	3135.60
(b) Political Party Committees	0.00	0.00
(c) Other Political Committees (such as PACs)	0.00	0.00
(d) The Candidate	0.00	0.00
(e) TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (other than loans) (add Lines 11(a)(iii), (b), (c), and (d))..	0.00	3135.60
12. TRANSFERS FROM OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES	0.00	0.00
13. LOANS:		
(a) Made or Guaranteed by the Candidate	0.00	250000.00
(b) All Other Loans	0.00	0.00
(c) TOTAL LOANS (add Lines 13(a) and (b))	0.00	250000.00
14. OFFSETS TO OPERATING EXPENDITURES (Refunds, Rebates, etc.)	0.00	0.00
15. OTHER RECEIPTS (Dividends, Interest, etc.)	0.00	0.00
16. TOTAL RECEIPTS (add Lines 11(e), 12, 13(c), 14, and 15) (Carry Total to Line 24, page 4)	0.00	253135.60

DETAILED SUMMARY PAGE of Disbursements

FEC Form 3 (Revised 05/2016)

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II. DISBURSEMENTS	COLUMN A Total This Period	COLUMN B Election Cycle-to-Date
17. OPERATING EXPENDITURES.....	0.00	24864.10
18. TRANSFERS TO OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES	0.00	0.00
19. LOAN REPAYMENTS:		
(a) Of Loans Made or Guaranteed by the Candidate.....	0.00	250000.00
(b) Of All Other Loans	0.00	0.00
(c) TOTAL LOAN REPAYMENTS (add Lines 19(a) and (b)).....	0.00	250000.00
20. REFUNDS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO:		
(a) Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees	0.00	1.00
(b) Political Party Committees.....	0.00	0.00
(c) Other Political Committees (such as PACs)	0.00	0.00
(d) TOTAL CONTRIBUTION REFUNDS (add Lines 20(a), (b), and (c)).....	0.00	1.00
21. OTHER DISBURSEMENTS	0.00	0.00
22. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (add Lines 17, 18, 19(c), 20(d), and 21) ►	0.00	274865.10

III. CASH SUMMARY

23. CASH ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD.....	3597.53
24. TOTAL RECEIPTS THIS PERIOD (from Line 16, page 3).....	0.00
25. SUBTOTAL (add Line 23 and Line 24)	3597.53
26. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS THIS PERIOD (from Line 22).....	0.00
27. CASH ON HAND AT CLOSE OF REPORTING PERIOD (subtract Line 26 from Line 25).....	3597.53



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 18, 2019

Masha Macurda, in official capacity as Treasurer
Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh
14252 Culver Drive, A820
Irvine, CA 92604

C00516922
AF#: 3677

Dear Ms. Macurda:

On April 5, 2019, the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer ("respondents"), violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2018 Year-End Report. The Commission also made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$3,925 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43.

After reviewing your written response and any supplemental information submitted by you and Commission staff, the Reviewing Officer has recommended that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess no civil money penalty. A copy of the Reviewing Officer's recommendation is attached.

You may file with the Commission Secretary a written response to the recommendation within 10 days of the date of this letter. Your written response should be sent to the Commission Secretary, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20463 or via facsimile (202-208-3333). Please include the AF # in your response. Your response may not raise any arguments not raised in your original written response or not directly responsive to the Reviewing Officer's recommendation. 11 C.F.R. § 111.36(f). The Commission will then make a final determination in this matter.

Please contact me at the toll free number 800-424-9530 (press 0, then press 1660) or 202-694-1158 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rhiannon Magruder

Rhiannon Magruder
Reviewing Officer
Office of Administrative Review



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

2019 JUL 16 PM 12:50

SENSITIVE

July 16, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: The Commission

Through: Alec Palmer
Staff Director *AP*

From: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Rhiannon Magruder *RM*
Reviewing Officer
Office of Administrative Review

Subject: Final Determination Recommendation in AF# 3677 – Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and Masha Macurda, in her official capacity as Treasurer (C00516922)

On April 5, 2019, the Commission found reason to believe ("RTB") that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2018 Year-End Report and made a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty was \$3,925 based on the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43.

On May 6, 2019, the Commission received their written response ("challenge"). After reviewing the challenge, the Reviewing Officer Recommendation ("ROR") dated June 18, 2019 was forwarded to the Commission, a copy was forwarded to the respondents, and is hereby incorporated by reference. The Reviewing Officer recommended that the Commission make a final determination that the respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess no civil money penalty.

Within 10 days of transmittal of the recommendation, the respondents may file a written response with the Commission Secretary which may not raise any arguments not raised in their challenge or not directly responsive to the ROR. 11 C.F.R. § 111.36(f). To date, a response has not been received.

TOBACCO

- [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2019.07.008](#)

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
) AF 3677
Final Determination Recommendation:)
Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and)
Masha Macurda, in her official capacity)
as Treasurer (C00516922))

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on July 30, 2019, the Commission decided by a vote of 4-0 to take the following actions in AF 3677:

1. Adopt the Reviewing Officer recommendation for AF# 3677 involving Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and Masha Macurda, in her official capacity as Treasurer, in making the final determination.
2. Make a final determination in AF# 3677 that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and Masha Macurda, in her official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess no civil money penalty (reduced from the RTB civil money penalty of \$3,925).
3. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

8/1/19

Date

Laura E. Sinram

Laura E. Sinram
Acting Secretary and Clerk of the
Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

August 6, 2019

Masha Macurda, in official capacity as Treasurer
Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh
14252 Culver Drive
A820
Irvine, CA 92604

C00516922
AF#: 3677

Dear Ms. Macurda:

On April 5, 2019, the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer ("respondents"), violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to timely file the 2018 Year-End Report. By letter dated April 8, 2019, the Commission sent notification of the RTB finding that included a civil money penalty calculated at RTB of \$3,925 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. On May 6, 2019, the Office of Administrative Review received your written response challenging the RTB finding.

The Reviewing Officer reviewed the Commission's RTB finding with its supporting documentation and your written response. Based on this review, the Reviewing Officer recommended that the Commission reduce the RTB civil money penalty because it was calculated using an estimated level of activity, make a final determination that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), and based on the actual level of activity disclosed on the 2018 Year-End Report filed April 14, 2019 (\$0), assess no civil money penalty in accordance with 11 C.F.R. § 111.43. The Reviewing Officer Recommendation was sent to you on June 18, 2019.

On July 30, 2019, the Commission adopted the Reviewing Officer's recommendation and made a final determination that Committee to Elect Ron Varasteh and you, in your official capacity as Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), and based on the level of activity disclosed on the 2018 Year-End Report (\$0), assessed no civil money penalty (reduced from the RTB civil money penalty of \$3,925). It is based on the same factors used to calculate the civil money penalty at RTB except that the actual rather than the estimated level of activity was used. A copy of the Final Determination Recommendation is attached.

The confidentiality provisions at 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. Pursuant to 11 C.F.R. §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within 30 days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Rhiannon Magruder on our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

On behalf of the Commission,

Ellen L. Weintraub

Ellen L. Weintraub
Chair

